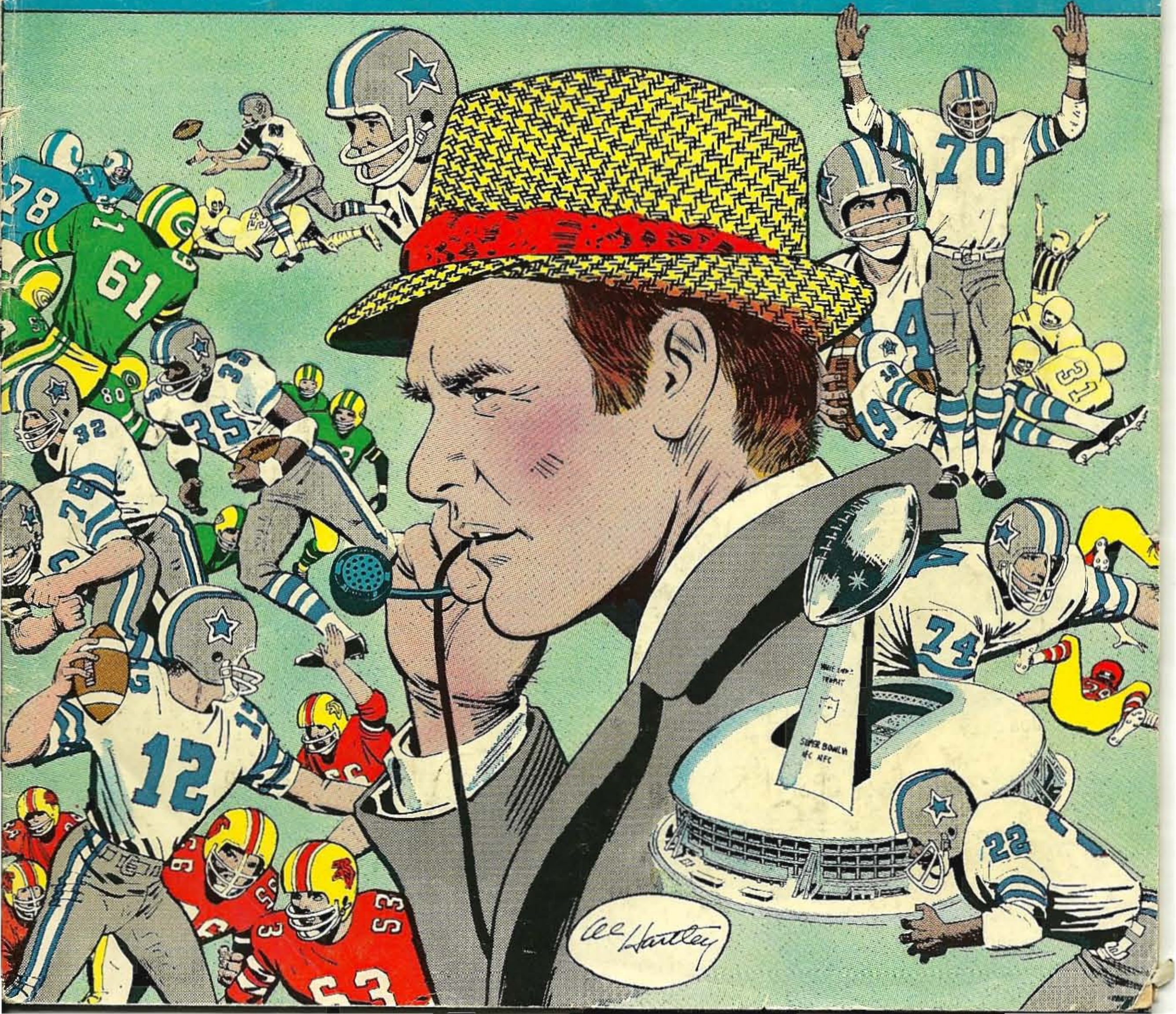
SPIRE CHRISTIAN COMICS

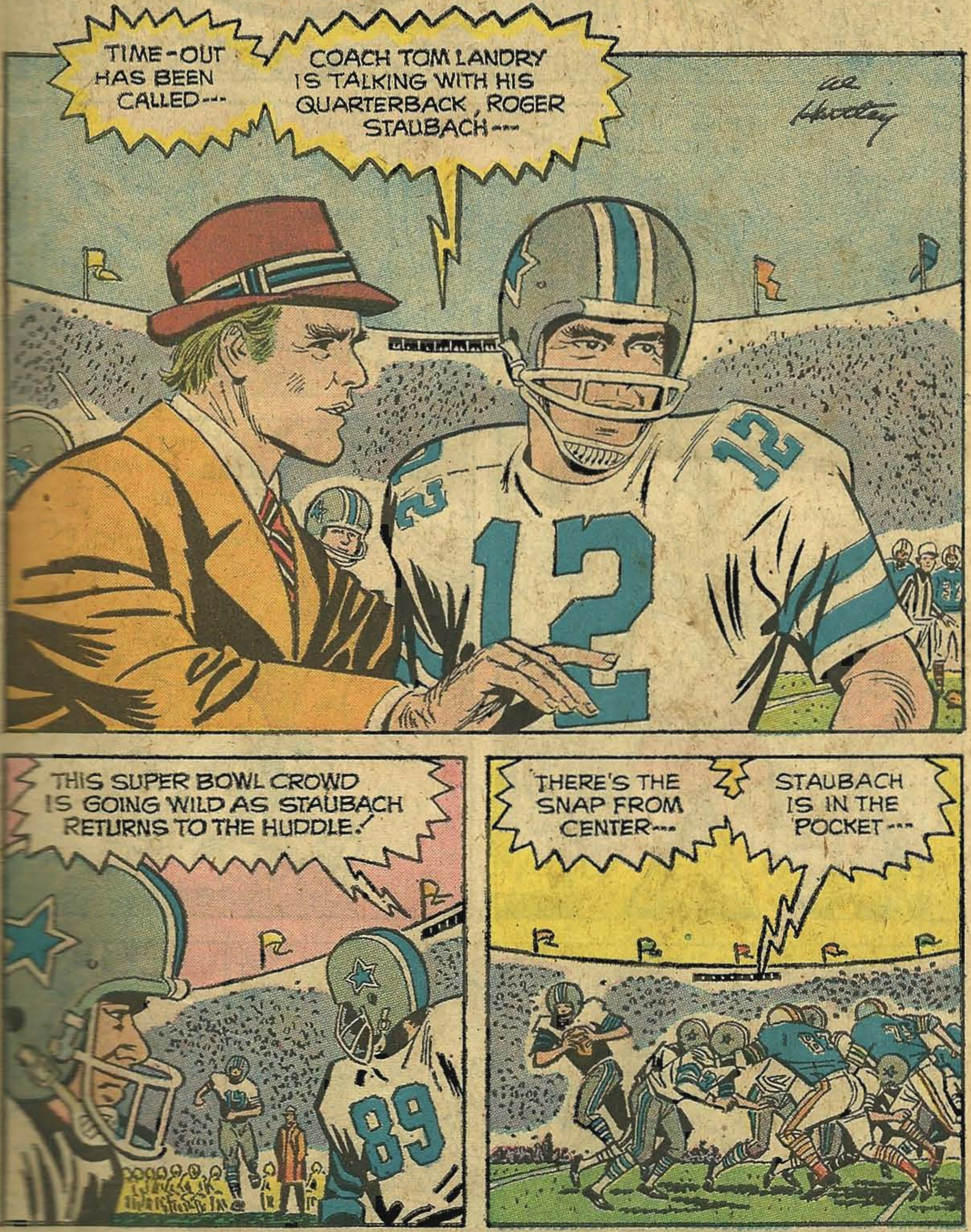
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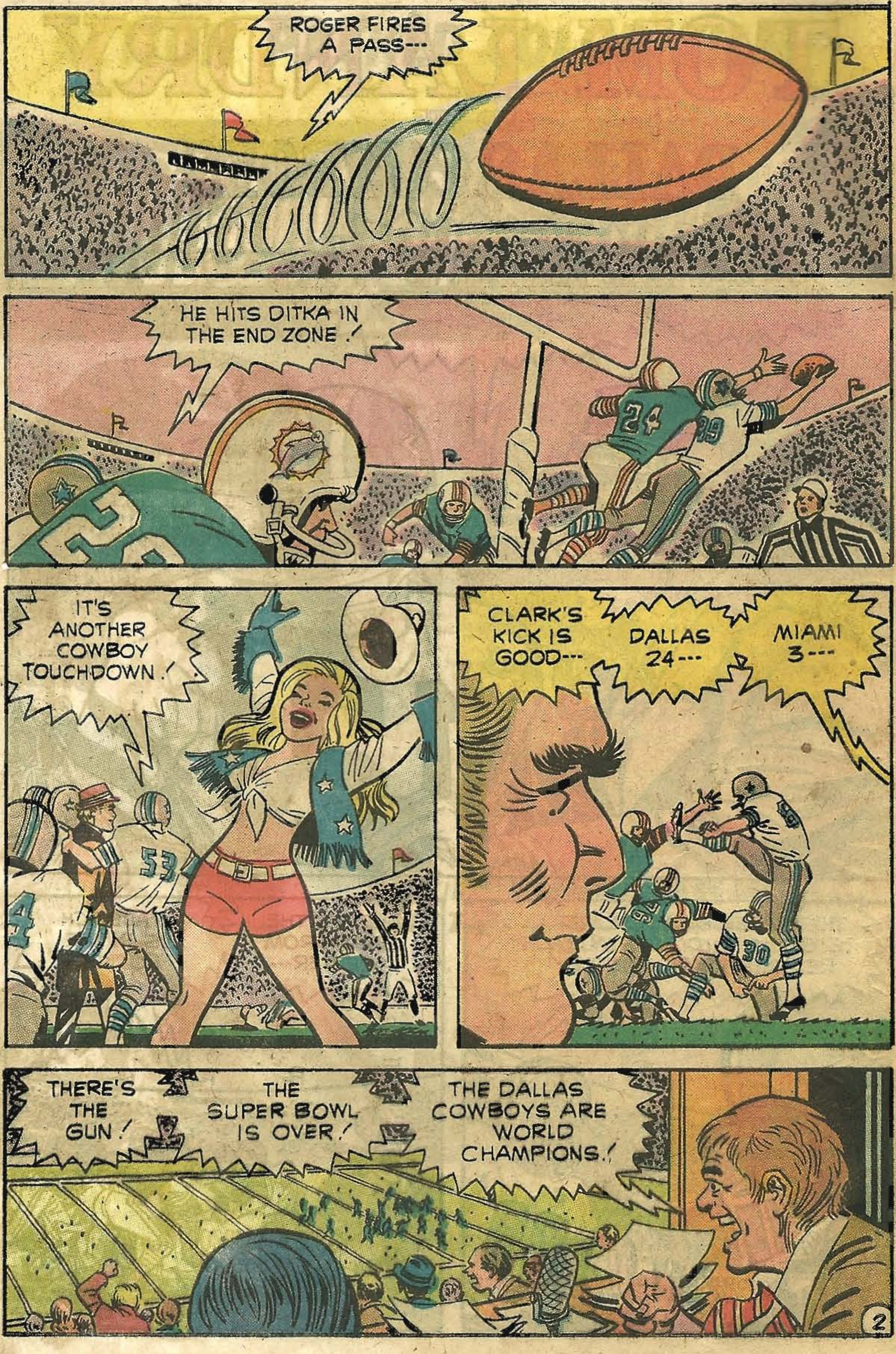
# TOM LANDRY AND THE DALLAS COWBOYS

by BILLY ZEOLI and AL HARTLEY



# TOM LANDRY AND THE DALLAS COWBOYS




ROGER FIRES A PASS---
HE HITS DITKA IN THE END ZONE.!
IT'S ANOTHER COWBOY TOUCHDOWN.!
CLARK'S KICK IS GOOD---
DALLAS 24---
MIAMI 3---
THERE'S THE GUN.!
THE SUPER BOWL IS OVER.!
THE DALLAS COWBOYS ARE WORLD CHAMPIONS.!
2

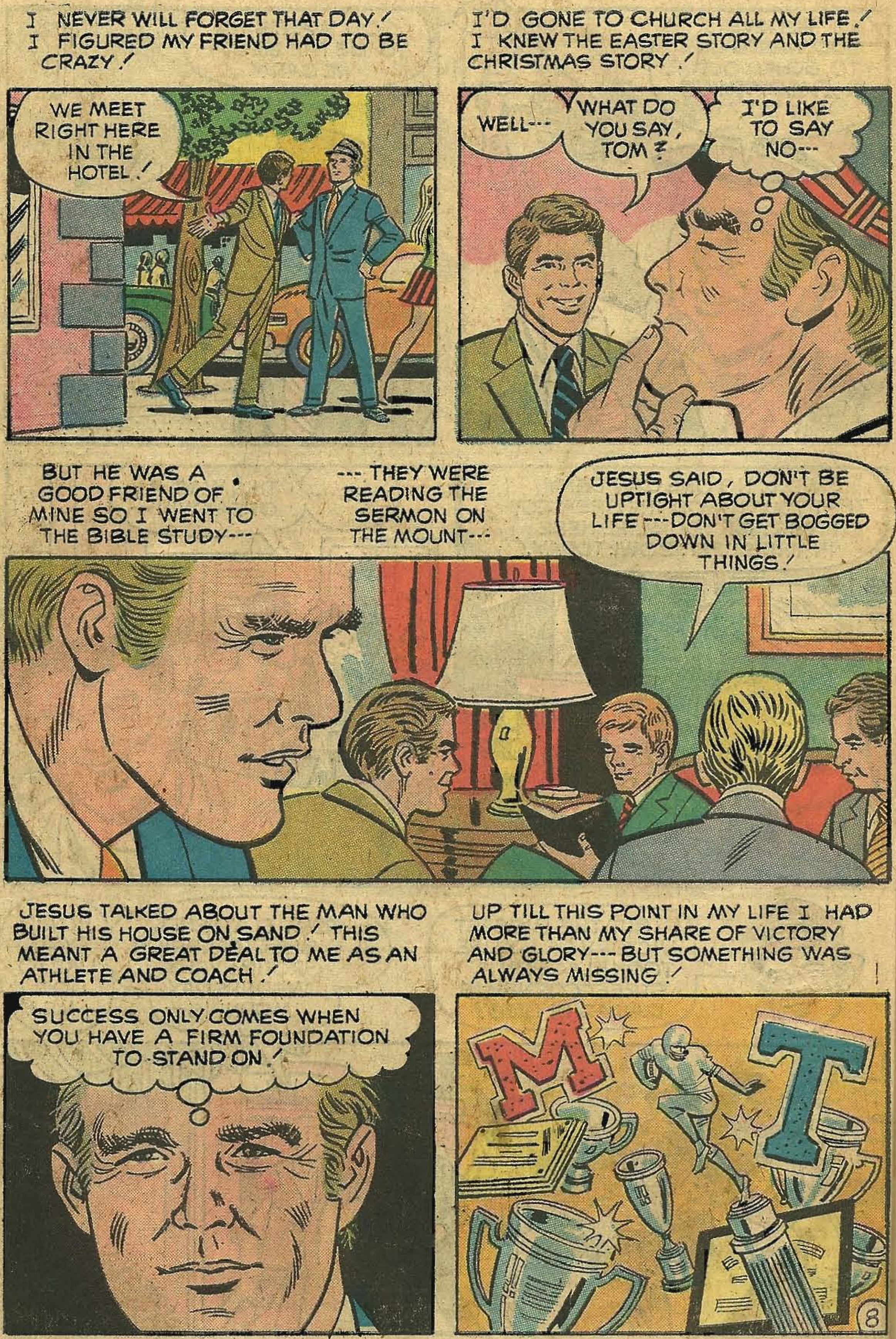

THE PLAYERS ARE CARRYING COACH TOM LANDRY OFF THE FIELD!
LET'S SWITCH TO OUR REMOTE UNIT IN THE COWBOYS' LOCKER ROOM---
---AND BRING YOU THE POST-GAME COVERAGE OF THIS FANTASTIC SUPER BOWL VICTORY!
TV
BOB LILLY, YOU GUYS PUT IT ALL TOGETHER TODAY!
HOW DID YOU DO IT?
WELL, THIS WAS A GREAT TEAM EFFORT!
EVERYBODY HAD A PART!
74
3

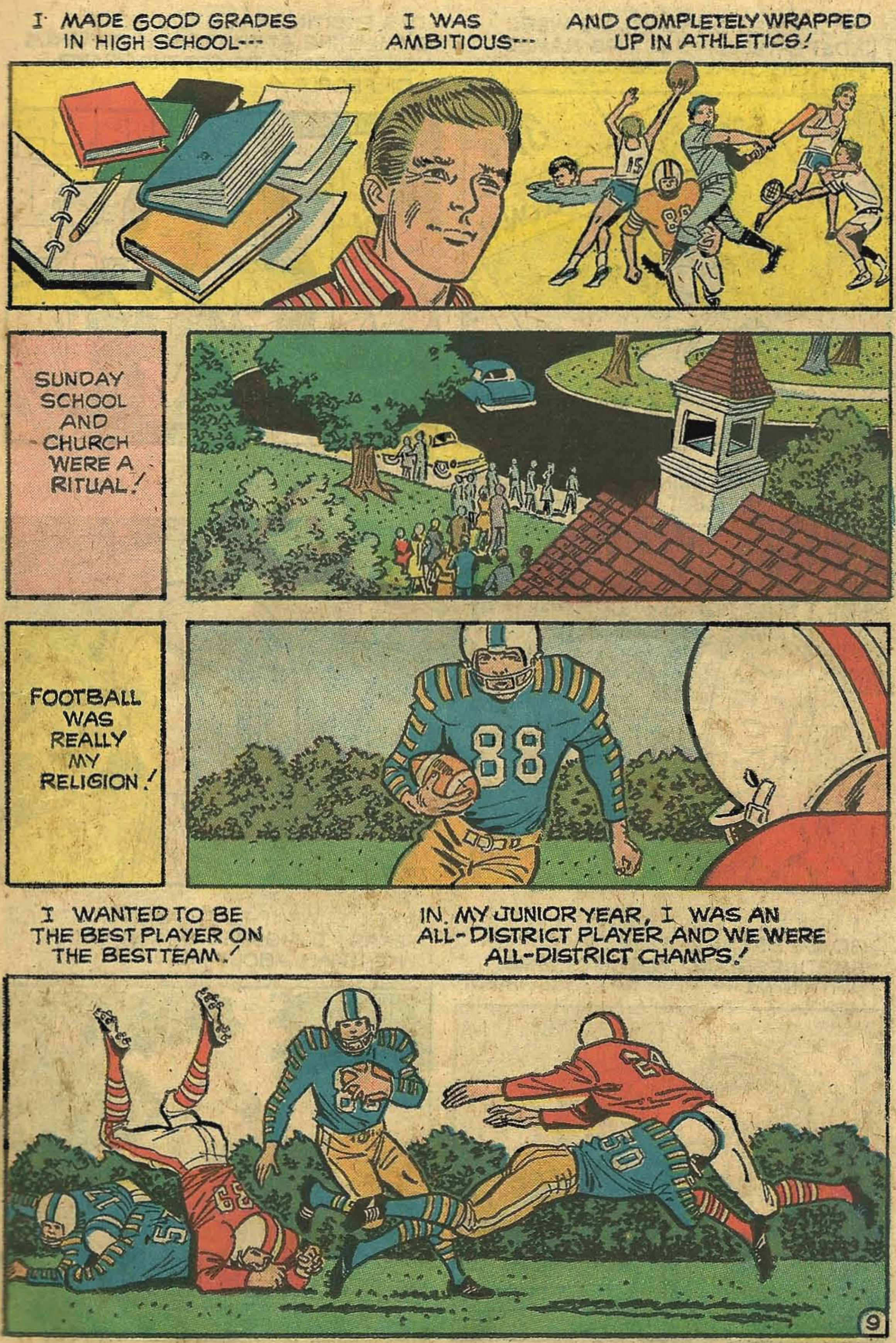

THAT'S RIGHT!
THIS IS A GREAT TEAM!
AND WE'VE GOT A GREAT COACH!
THAT WAS CRAIG MORTON, FOLKS!
COACH LANDRY RESPECTS THIS TEAM AND WE RESPECT HIM!
THANK YOU, BOB HAYES!
TOM LANDRY HAS A FANTASTIC KNOWLEDGE OF FOOTBALL!
THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THE MAN!
WHEN WE WERE FOUR AND THREE THIS YEAR, HE HAD THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE COULD STILL WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP!
HE WAS RIGHT!
WE WENT ON TO WIN *TEN IN A ROW!*
AND IT'S NOT JUST FAITH IN *HIMSELF!*
HE'S GOT FAITH IN *GOD!*

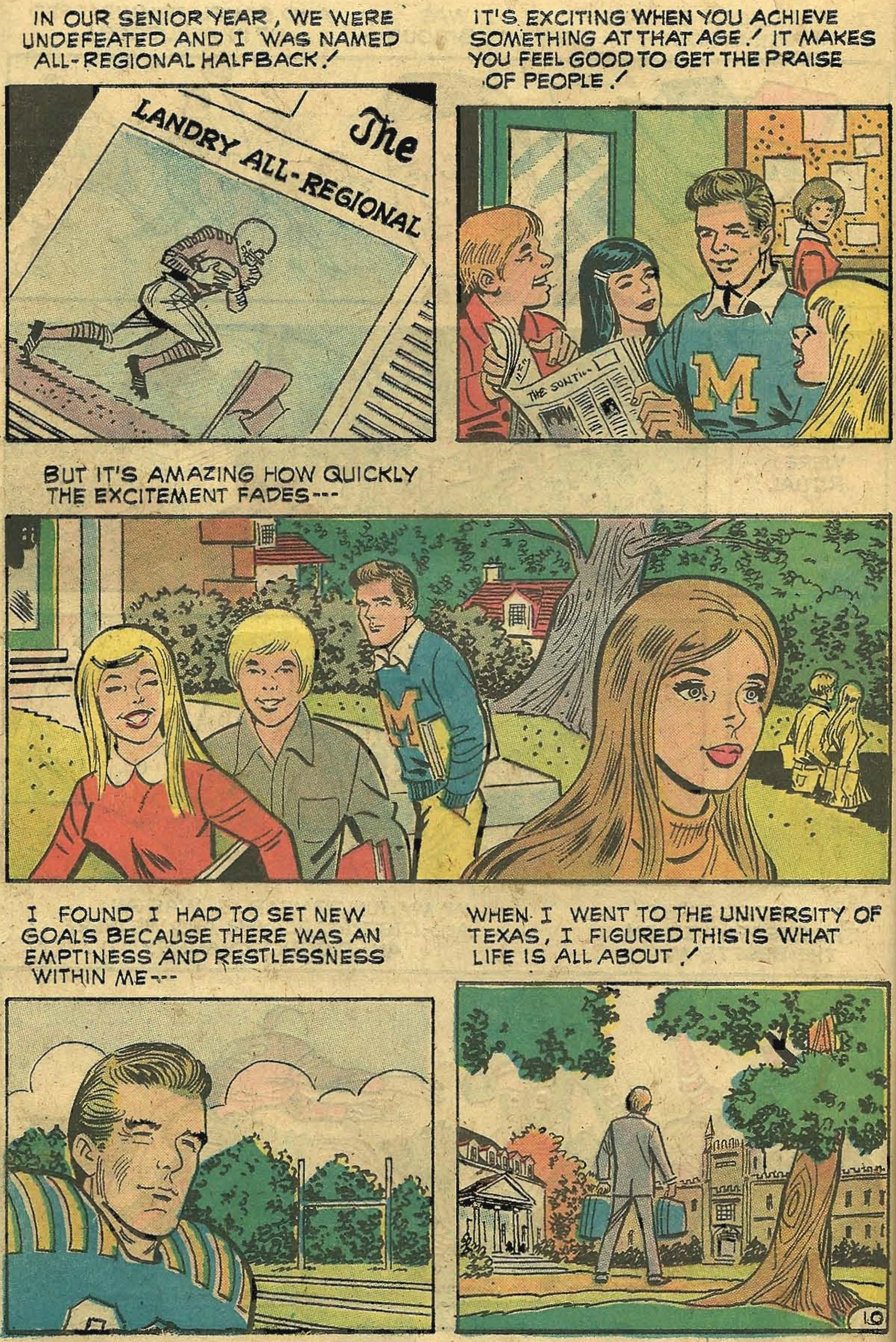

THERE'S A SPIRIT ABOUT TOM LANDRY THAT'S CONTAGIOUS!
AND THAT SPIRIT SORT OF TOOK OVER OUR TEAM THIS YEAR!
TV
HERE'S ROGER STAUBACH---
THE GREAT COWBOY QUARTERBACK!
ROGER, I GUESS YOU'LL BE GOING OUT ON THE TOWN TONIGHT TO CELEBRATE THIS FANTASTIC SUPER BOWL VICTORY!
I'LL BE WITH MY FAMILY TONIGHT!
WE'VE GOT A LOT TO THANK THE LORD FOR!
5

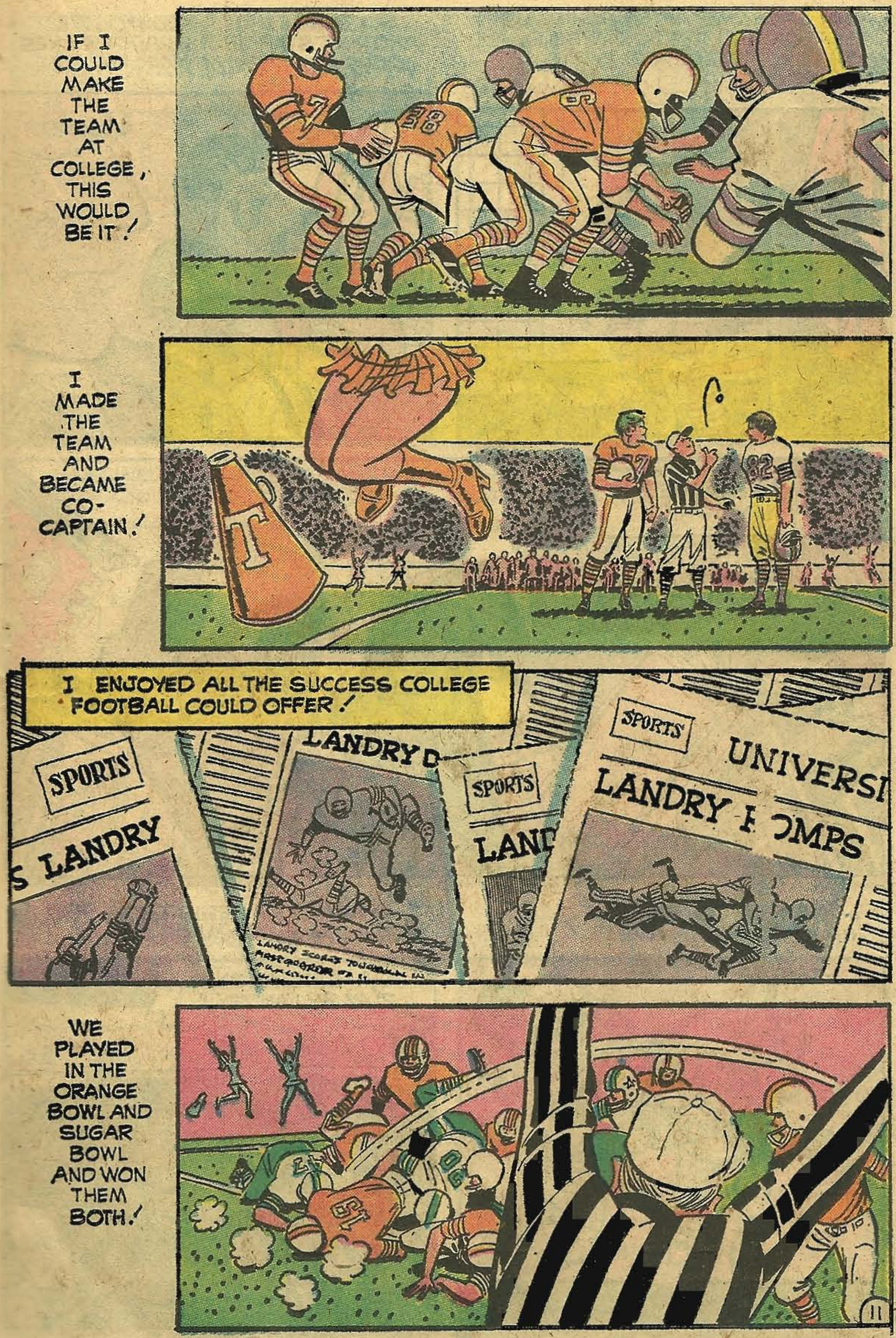

TOM, WE'VE BEEN TALKING TO YOUR PLAYERS---
WE SENSE A POWER ON THIS COWBOY TEAM THAT'S MORE THAN PHYSICAL---
THERE'S A REAL SPIRITUAL STRENGTH HERE.!
YES, MANY OF OUR PLAYERS ARE CHRISTIANS.!
LET ME ASK YOU---
HOW CAN MEN CLAIM TO BE CHRISTIANS---
---AND BE INVOLVED IN SUCH A VIOLENT SPORT?
WELL, I KNOW MANY PEOPLE VIEW THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AS PASSIVE.!
THEY THINK IF YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING.!
BUT I THINK WHEN A MAN STEPS ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD, HE SHOULD PLAY BY THE RULES---
AND PLAY AS HARD AS HE CAN WITHIN THOSE RULES.!
6


I BELIEVE GOD WANTS US TO GO ALL OUT IN *EVERYTHING* WE DO!
GOD WANTS US TO BE THE BEST WE CAN!
WELL, NO ONE CAN DENY THAT YOU'VE WON THE GREATEST VICTORY OF YOUR LIFE HERE IN THE SUPER BOWL TODAY!
YES---
THIS WAS A GREAT WIN---
BUT THE BIGGEST VICTORY OF MY LIFE TOOK PLACE ON A STREET CORNER IN DALLAS IN 1958!
TOM, I ATTEND A BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING---
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME?
SHERYL'S
7

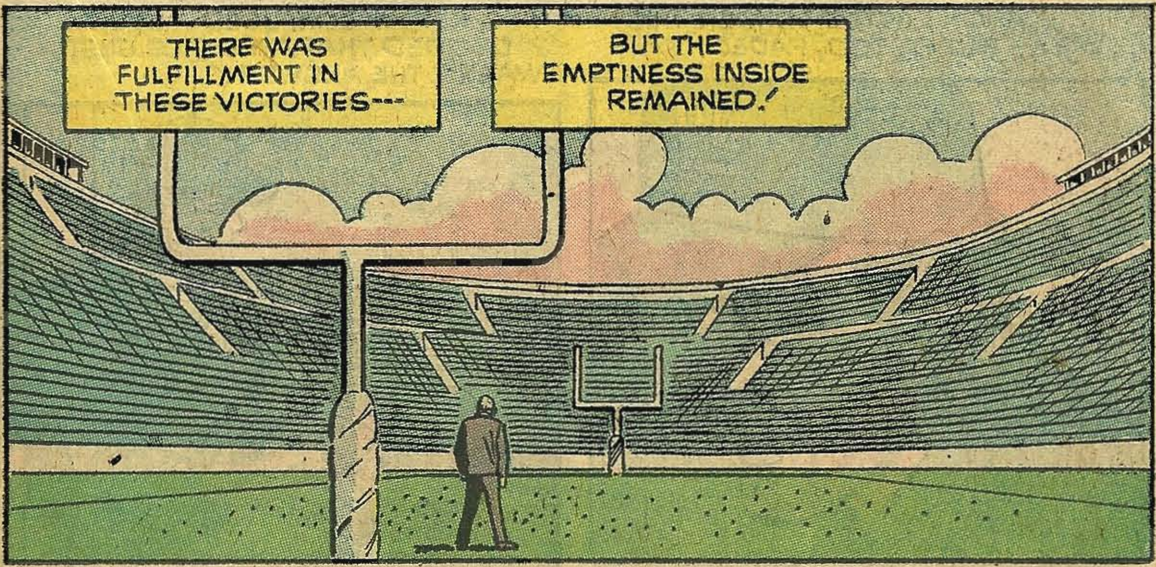

I NEVER WILL FORGET THAT DAY! I FIGURED MY FRIEND HAD TO BE CRAZY!
WE MEET RIGHT HERE IN THE HOTEL!
I'D GONE TO CHURCH ALL MY LIFE! I KNEW THE EASTER STORY AND THE CHRISTMAS STORY!
WELL---
WHAT DO YOU SAY, TOM?
I'D LIKE TO SAY NO---
BUT HE WAS A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE SO I WENT TO THE BIBLE STUDY---
--- THEY WERE READING THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT---
JESUS SAID, DON'T BE UPTIGHT ABOUT YOUR LIFE---DON'T GET BOGGED DOWN IN LITTLE THINGS!
JESUS TALKED ABOUT THE MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON SAND! THIS MEANT A GREAT DEAL TO ME AS AN ATHLETE AND COACH!
SUCCESS ONLY COMES WHEN YOU HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION TO STAND ON!
UP TILL THIS POINT IN MY LIFE I HAD MORE THAN MY SHARE OF VICTORY AND GLORY--- BUT SOMETHING WAS ALWAYS MISSING!
M
T
8


I MADE GOOD GRADES IN HIGH SCHOOL---
I WAS AMBITIOUS---
AND COMPLETELY WRAPPED UP IN ATHLETICS!
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH WERE A RITUAL!
FOOTBALL WAS REALLY MY RELIGION!
I WANTED TO BE THE BEST PLAYER ON THE BEST TEAM!
IN MY JUNIOR YEAR, I WAS AN ALL-DISTRICT PLAYER AND WE WERE ALL-DISTRICT CHAMPS!


IN OUR SENIOR YEAR, WE WERE UNDEFEATED AND I WAS NAMED ALL-REGIONAL HALFBACK!
The
LANDRY ALL-REGIONAL
IT'S EXCITING WHEN YOU ACHIEVE SOMETHING AT THAT AGE! IT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD TO GET THE PRAISE OF PEOPLE!
BUT IT'S AMAZING HOW QUICKLY THE EXCITEMENT FADES---
I FOUND I HAD TO SET NEW GOALS BECAUSE THERE WAS AN EMPTINESS AND RESTLESSNESS WITHIN ME---
WHEN I WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, I FIGURED THIS IS WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT!


IF I COULD MAKE THE TEAM AT COLLEGE, THIS WOULD BE IT!
I MADE THE TEAM AND BECAME CO-CAPTAIN!
I ENJOYED ALL THE SUCCESS COLLEGE FOOTBALL COULD OFFER!
SPORTS
S LANDRY
SPORTS
SPORTS
UNIVERSI
WE PLAYED IN THE ORANGE BOWL AND SUGAR BOWL AND WON THEM BOTH!


BUT EACH TIME AFTER ACHIEVING THE GOALS I SET FOR MYSELF, ALL THE EXCITEMENT AND THRILL WORE OFF ---
SO I SET NEW GOALS--- ANOTHER STEP UP THE LADDER--- PRO FOOTBALL !!!
I WAS DRAFTED BY NEW YORK !
I WANTED TO BECOME ALL-PRO AND MADE IT !
I WANTED TO GET INTO THE PRO BOWL GAME AND MADE IT !
--- A SENSATIONAL PLAY BY LANDRY !
12




I IMAGINED THIS WAS BECAUSE I STILL HADN'T REACHED THE TOP!



THEN I BECAME A PLAYER-COACH AND LATER A DEFENSIVE COACH!



IN MY FIRST FULL YEAR AS COACH, WE WON THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP AGAINST THE CHICAGO BEARS IN YANKEE STADIUM!

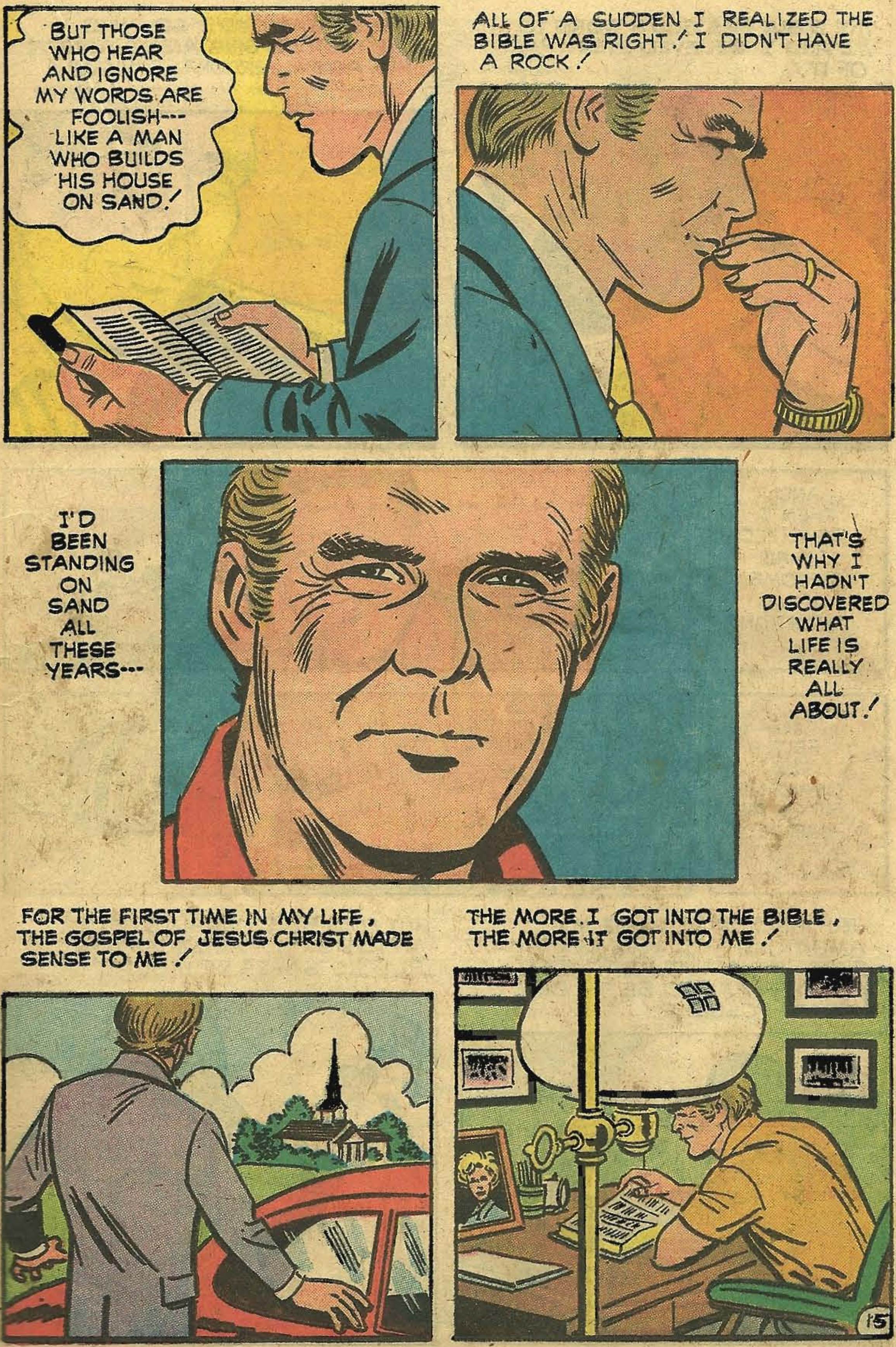



THIS HAD TO BE THE BEST! ON TOP OF THE WORLD AS WORLD CHAMPIONS!

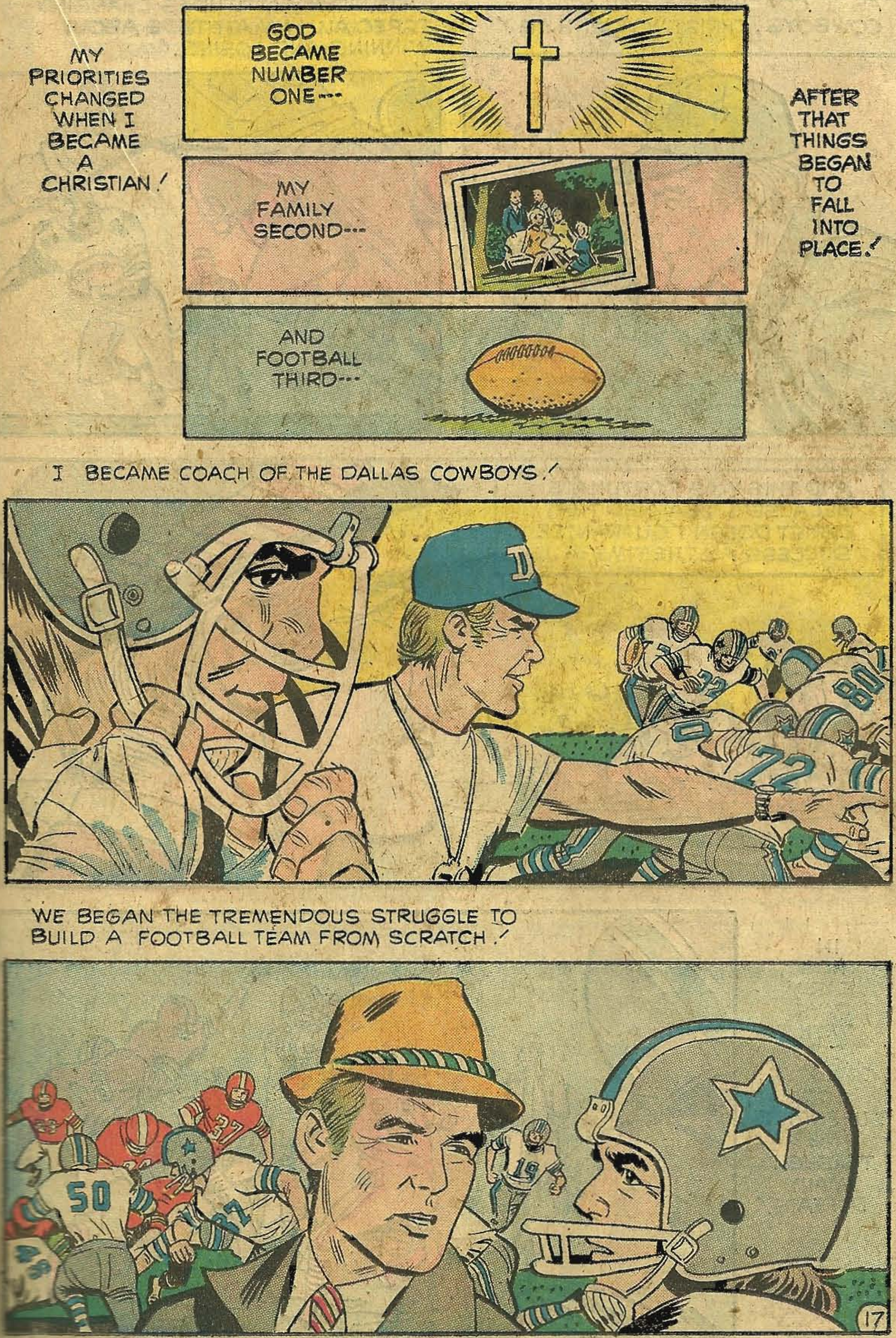




THE ELATION LASTED LONGER THIS TIME --- BUT IT, TOO, FADED.!
NY
THIS REALLY CONFUSED ME AND I DECIDED THAT ATHLETICS JUST WASN'T THE ANSWER.!
NY
GIANTS
I HAD RECEIVED DEGREES IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING BY THIS TIME ---
SO I BEGAN TO MAKE PLANS TO LEAVE FOOTBALL.!
AND IT WAS AT THIS POINT IN MY LIFE THAT I MET MY FRIEND ON THE STREET IN DALLAS AND JOINED HIS BIBLE STUDY.!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN US, TOM.!
AS I STUDIED THE BIBLE, THE WORDS OF CHRIST SPOKE TO ME.!
7 ST. MAT
24 All who hear my words and follow them are wise like a man who builds his house on solid rock
14


BUT THOSE WHO HEAR AND IGNORE MY WORDS ARE FOOLISH--- LIKE A MAN WHO BUILDS HIS HOUSE ON SAND!
ALL OF A SUDDEN I REALIZED THE BIBLE WAS RIGHT! I DIDN'T HAVE A ROCK!
I'D BEEN STANDING ON SAND ALL THESE YEARS---
THAT'S WHY I HADN'T DISCOVERED WHAT LIFE IS REALLY ALL ABOUT!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST MADE SENSE TO ME!
THE MORE I GOT INTO THE BIBLE, THE MORE IT GOT INTO ME!


THE BIBLE WAS GOD'S WORD TO ME AND I BELIEVED EVERY PART OF IT.!
JESUS WAS GOD'S SON WHO DIED FOR MY SINS AND I ACCEPTED HIM AS MY PERSONAL SAVIOUR.!
AND THEN I REALIZED I HAD BECOME A CHRISTIAN.!
35
I FELT GOD CHANGING ME ON THE INSIDE.!
BUT HE DIDN'T CHANGE MY AMBITIONS --- I WAS CERTAIN THAT HE WANTED ME TO BE A COACH --- AND TO BE THE BEST COACH POSSIBLE.!
BUT FOOTBALL WAS NO LONGER MY RELIGION.! AND I STOPPED PLAYING GAMES WITH GOD.!

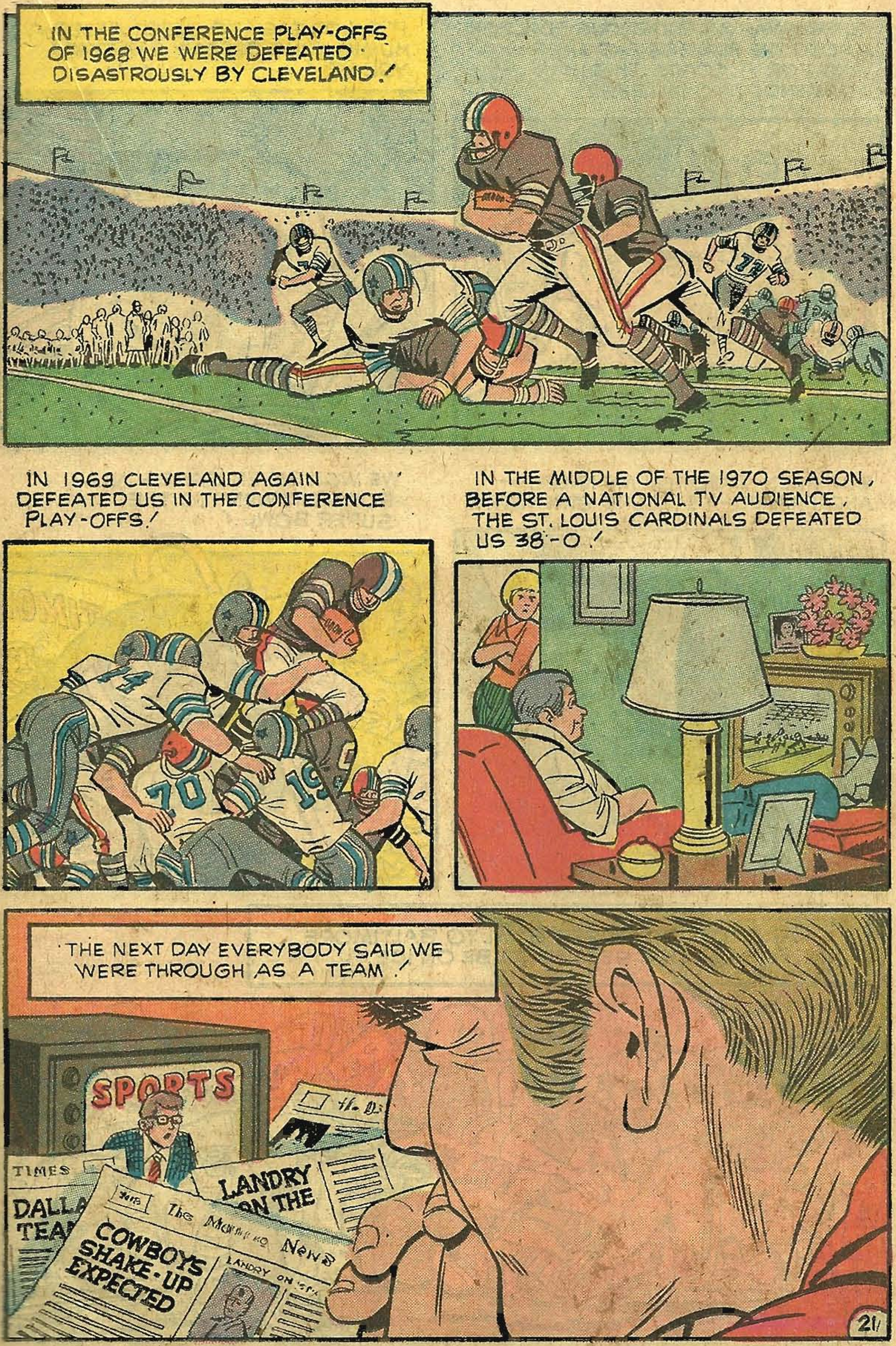


MY PRIORITIES CHANGED WHEN I BECAME A CHRISTIAN!
GOD BECAME NUMBER ONE---
MY FAMILY SECOND---
AND FOOTBALL THIRD---
AFTER THAT THINGS BEGAN TO FALL INTO PLACE!
I BECAME COACH OF THE DALLAS COWBOYS!
WE BEGAN THE TREMENDOUS STRUGGLE TO BUILD A FOOTBALL TEAM FROM SCRATCH!

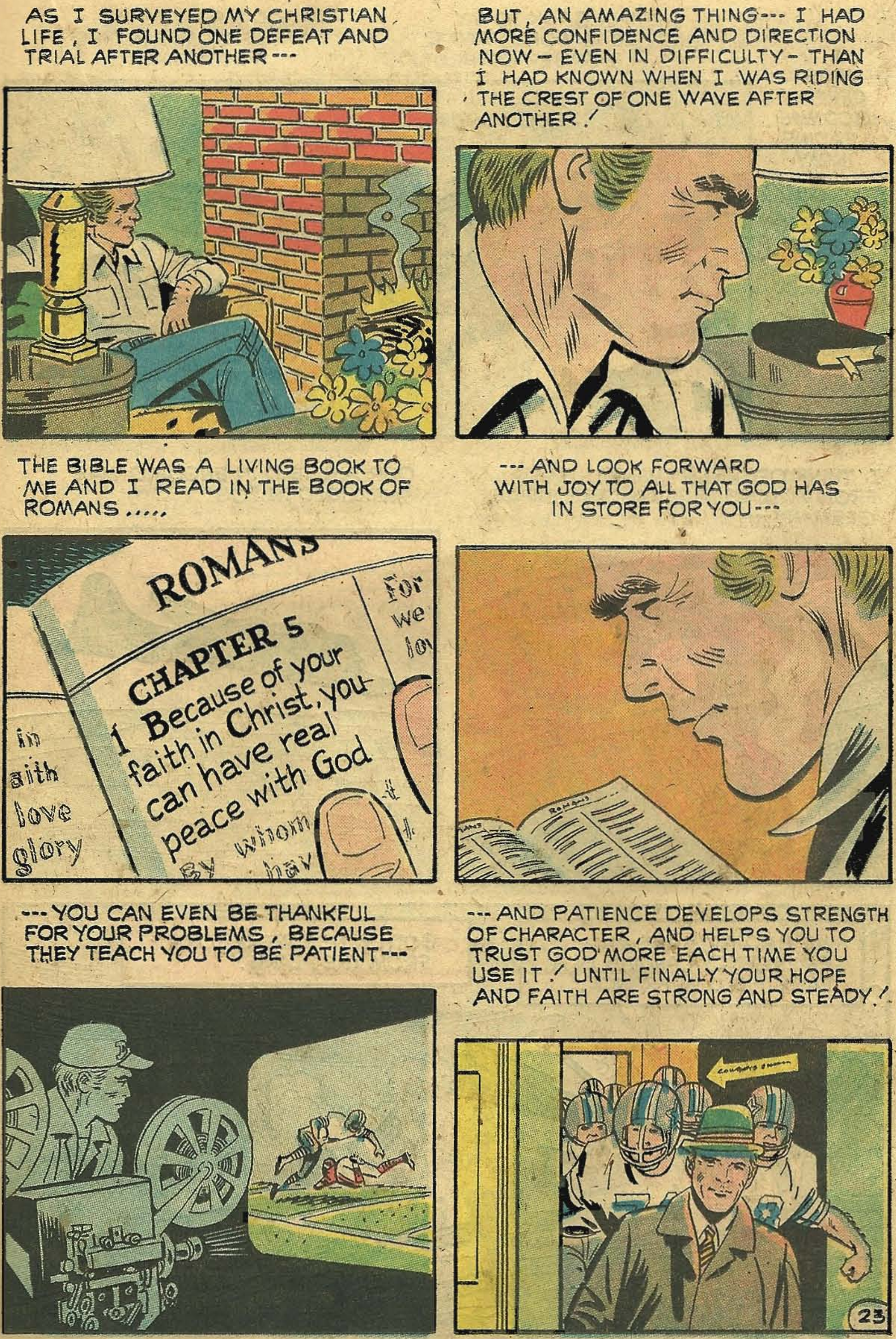

AS I COACHED THE DALLAS COWBOYS, CHRIST WAS WITH ME!
I FOUND MY ATTITUDES CHANGING--- ESPECIALLY MY ATTITUDE ABOUT WINNING AND LOSING!
AND THIS WAS FORTUNATE BECAUSE I LEARNED THAT CHRIST DOESN'T GUARANTEE SUCCESS ALL THE TIME---
IN THOSE EARLY DAYS WITH THE COWBOYS, GOD SUPPORTED ME THROUGH MANY DEFEATS!
18

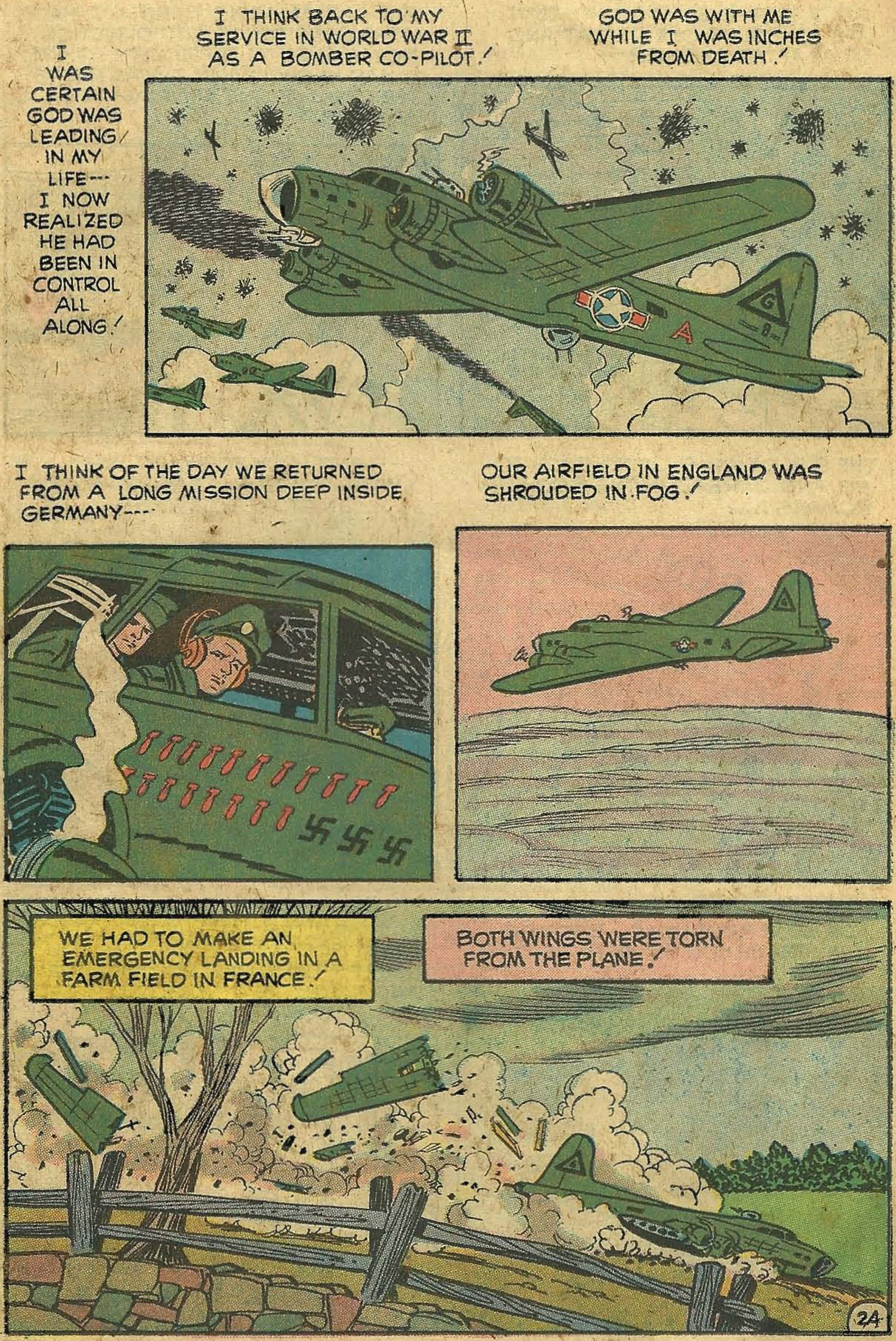

IN OUR FIRST YEAR WE TIED ONE GAME AND LOST 12 !
THERE WERE DIFFICULT DECISIONS TO BE MADE UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE !
THE DALLA
COWBOYS FUMBLE
NEWS
DUMP MERIDETH MOVE SEEN
DALLAS AWAITS ROUND
COWBOY FANS GO
SPORTS
The NEWS
LANDRY ON THE SPOT
AND EACH TIME I KNEW THAT GOD WAS WITH ME !
I THINK, IN A VERY REAL SENSE, SOME OF THE DEFEATS OF MY LIFE HAVE BEEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE VICTORIES !


IN 1966 WE STARTED OUR STRING OF SEVEN STRAIGHT PLAY-OFFS!
IN THE PLAY-OFFS, WE BECAME KNOWN AS THE TEAM THAT COULDN'T WIN THE BIG GAME!
IN 1966 WE LOST THE NFL CHAMPIONSHIP TO THE GREEN BAY PACKERS IN THE LAST MINUTE OF PLAY!
IN 1967 IT SEEMED WE HAD THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME WON AGAINST GREEN BAY---
BUT BART STARR SCORED IN THE LAST SECONDS OF PLAY!
WE LOST AGAIN!
20

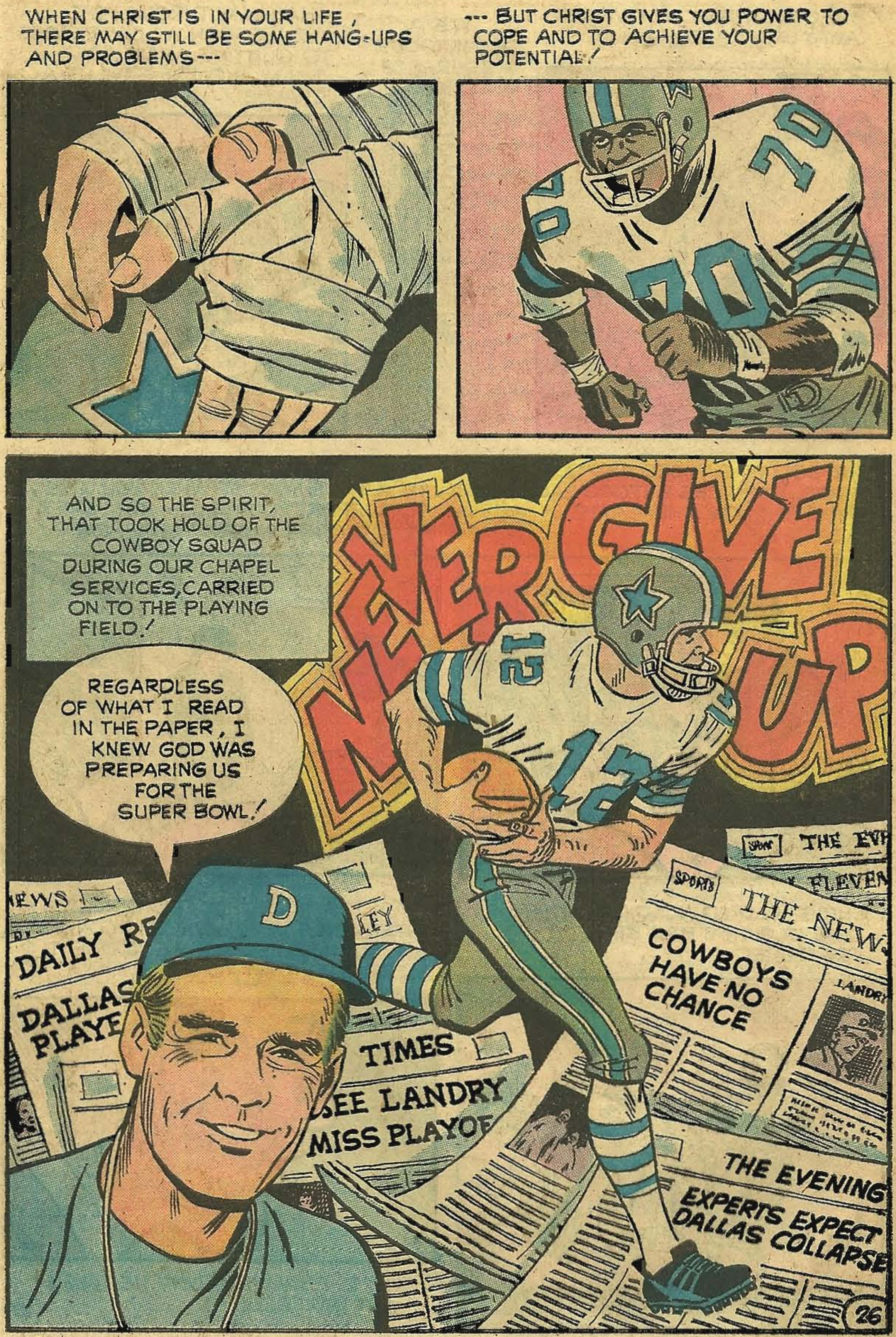

IN THE CONFERENCE PLAY-OFFS OF 1968 WE WERE DEFEATED DISASTROUSLY BY CLEVELAND!
IN 1969 CLEVELAND AGAIN DEFEATED US IN THE CONFERENCE PLAY-OFFS!
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE 1970 SEASON, BEFORE A NATIONAL TV AUDIENCE, THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS DEFEATED US 38-0!
THE NEXT DAY EVERYBODY SAID WE WERE THROUGH AS A TEAM!
SPORTS
TIMES
LANDRY ON THE
COWBOYS SHAKE-UP EXPECTED
21


THERE WAS AN ENORMOUS REACTION AMONG THE PLAYERS AND FANS--- AND FOR A COACH, THIS IS A TREMENDOUS CHALLENGE!
D
IT'S NOT EASY TO SLEEP AFTER A HUMILIATING DEFEAT! IT TEARS YOU UP!
BUT WHEN I GOT ON MY KNEES--- AND PRAYED--- I FOUND STRENGTH!
WE WON SEVEN GAMES IN A ROW AND WENT TO THE SUPER BOWL!
BEAT
TIMOR
COLTS
COWBOYS
---AND LOST THE SUPER BOWL TO BALTIMORE IN A GAME THAT SEEMED TO BE ON ICE!
22


AS I SURVEYED MY CHRISTIAN LIFE, I FOUND ONE DEFEAT AND TRIAL AFTER ANOTHER---
BUT, AN AMAZING THING--- I HAD MORE CONFIDENCE AND DIRECTION NOW - EVEN IN DIFFICULTY - THAN I HAD KNOWN WHEN I WAS RIDING THE CREST OF ONE WAVE AFTER ANOTHER!
THE BIBLE WAS A LIVING BOOK TO ME AND I READ IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS.....
ROMANS
CHAPTER 5
1 Because of your faith in Christ, you can have real peace with God
---AND LOOK FORWARD WITH JOY TO ALL THAT GOD HAS IN STORE FOR YOU---
---YOU CAN EVEN BE THANKFUL FOR YOUR PROBLEMS, BECAUSE THEY TEACH YOU TO BE PATIENT---
---AND PATIENCE DEVELOPS STRENGTH OF CHARACTER, AND HELPS YOU TO TRUST GOD MORE EACH TIME YOU USE IT! UNTIL FINALLY YOUR HOPE AND FAITH ARE STRONG AND STEADY!

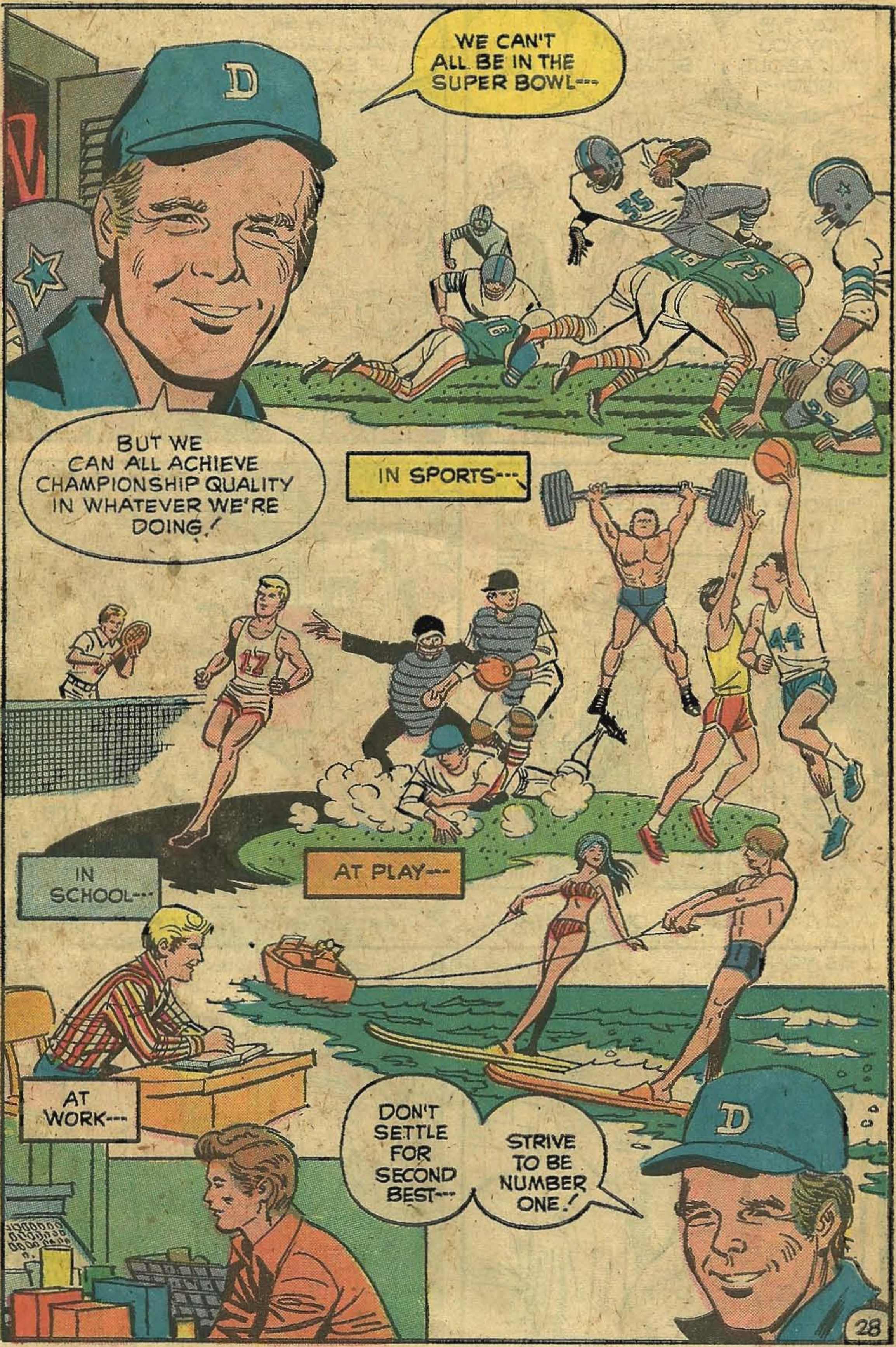

I THINK BACK TO MY SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II AS A BOMBER CO-PILOT!
GOD WAS WITH ME WHILE I WAS INCHES FROM DEATH!
I WAS CERTAIN GOD WAS LEADING IN MY LIFE--- I NOW REALIZED HE HAD BEEN IN CONTROL ALL ALONG!
I THINK OF THE DAY WE RETURNED FROM A LONG MISSION DEEP INSIDE GERMANY---
OUR AIRFIELD IN ENGLAND WAS SHROUDED IN FOG!
WE HAD TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN A FARM FIELD IN FRANCE!
BOTH WINGS WERE TORN FROM THE PLANE!
24

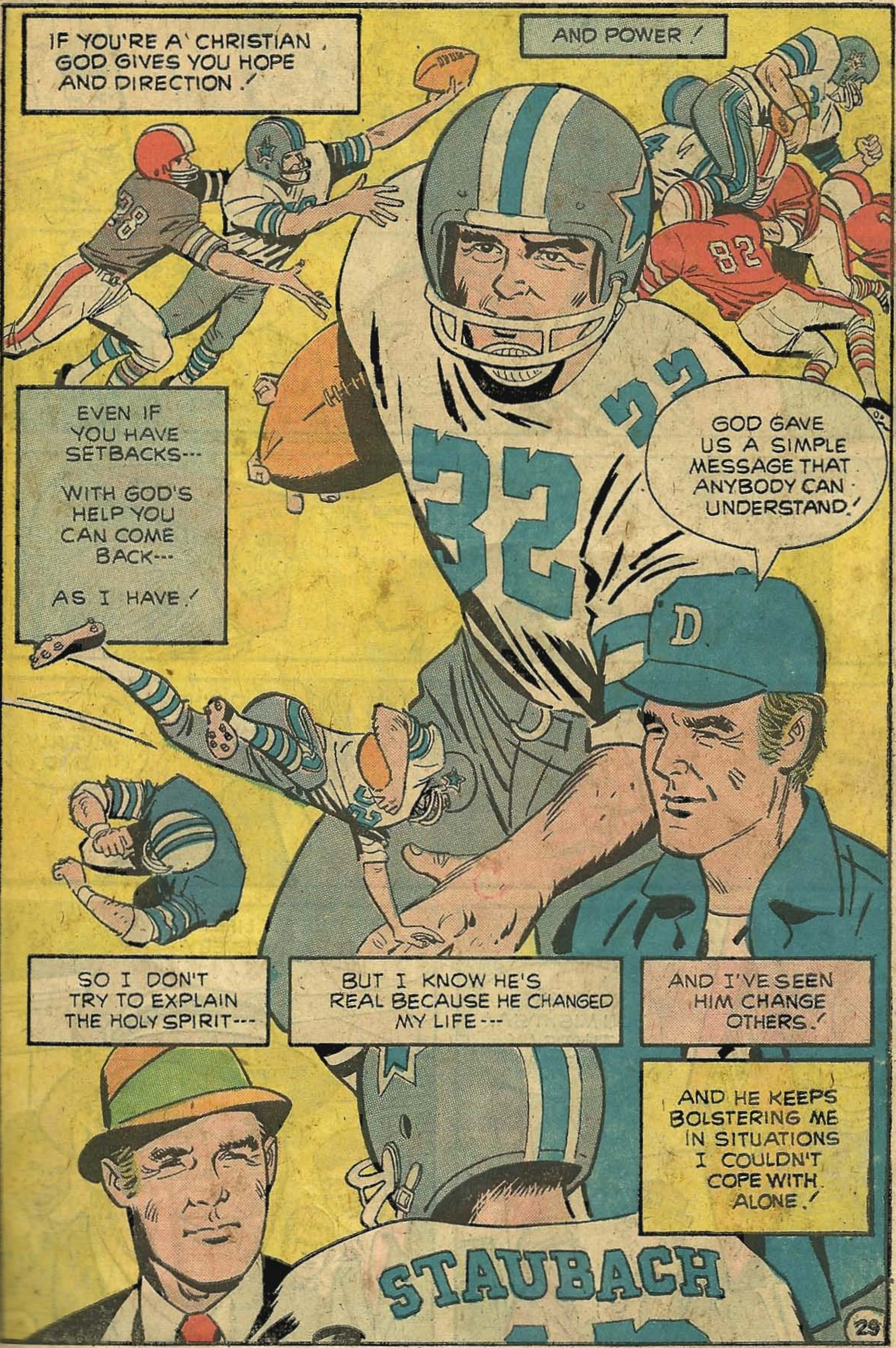

BUT OUR ENTIRE CREW WALKED AWAY UNHARMED!
IT'S A TREMENDOUS ASSURANCE TO KNOW THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL OF THINGS--- AND THAT ALL THINGS WORK OUT RIGHT FOR THOSE WHO REALLY LOVE GOD BECAUSE---
---HALFWAY THROUGH THE 1971 SEASON WE CAME CLOSE TO QUITTING AGAIN AS A TEAM! NO ONE GAVE US A CHANCE!
BUT GOD WAS THERE AND OUR CHAPEL SERVICES BEFORE EACH GAME TOOK ON A GREATER MEANING!
GOD'S GAME PLAN
Y' KNOW, PEOPLE CAN SAY THAT GOD IS A THING YOU USE WHEN YOU LOSE, TO SUPPORT YOURSELF --- BUT HERE'S A SITUATION WHERE IT HAPPENED!
CHRIST HELPED MOLD TOGETHER A GROUP THAT HAD BEEN FRACTURED!
I'M NOT SAYING THAT GOD DIRECTLY INTERVENES IN AN ATHLETIC CONTEST, ALTHOUGH HE CERTAINLY COULD IF IT WERE IMPORTANT TO HIS PLAN!
BUT I REALLY BELIEVE HE TAKES PART INDIRECTLY---


WHEN CHRIST IS IN YOUR LIFE, THERE MAY STILL BE SOME HANG-UPS AND PROBLEMS---
--- BUT CHRIST GIVES YOU POWER TO COPE AND TO ACHIEVE YOUR POTENTIAL!
AND SO THE SPIRIT, THAT TOOK HOLD OF THE COWBOY SQUAD DURING OUR CHAPEL SERVICES, CARRIED ON TO THE PLAYING FIELD!
NEVER GIVE UP
REGARDLESS OF WHAT I READ IN THE PAPER, I KNEW GOD WAS PREPARING US FOR THE SUPER BOWL!
DAILY RE
DALLAS PLAYE
TIMES
SEE LANDRY MISS PLAYOF
THE NEWS
COWBOYS HAVE NO CHANCE
THE EVENING
EXPERTS EXPECT DALLAS COLLAPSE



TOM, THE WAY YOU TALK ABOUT GOD---
YOU MAKE HIM SEEM SO REAL!
HE IS REAL!
AND I WISH I HAD LEARNED IT SOONER---
I WAS 33 YEARS OLD BEFORE CHRIST REALLY CAME INTO MY LIFE---
TV
AND I MISSED OUT ON A GREAT DEAL DURING THOSE FIRST 33 YEARS!
LANDRY
THAT'S WHY MY GREATEST WISH TODAY IS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST WITH YOUNG PEOPLE!


WE CAN'T ALL BE IN THE SUPER BOWL---
BUT WE CAN ALL ACHIEVE CHAMPIONSHIP QUALITY IN WHATEVER WE'RE DOING!
IN SPORTS---
IN SCHOOL---
AT PLAY---
AT WORK---
DON'T SETTLE FOR SECOND BEST---
STRIVE TO BE NUMBER ONE!
28



IF YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN, GOD GIVES YOU HOPE AND DIRECTION!
AND POWER!
EVEN IF YOU HAVE SETBACKS---
WITH GOD'S HELP YOU CAN COME BACK---
AS I HAVE!
GOD GAVE US A SIMPLE MESSAGE THAT ANYBODY CAN UNDERSTAND!
SO I DON'T TRY TO EXPLAIN THE HOLY SPIRIT---
BUT I KNOW HE'S REAL BECAUSE HE CHANGED MY LIFE---
AND I'VE SEEN HIM CHANGE OTHERS!
AND HE KEEPS BOLSTERING ME IN SITUATIONS I COULDN'T COPE WITH ALONE!
STAUBACH
29


I'M KIND OF AMUSED BY PEOPLE WHO GET HUNG UP ON DOCTRINE!
THIS IS MY DOCTRINE!
I BELIEVE WHAT CHRIST SAID IS TRUE!
I NEVER QUESTION IT!
I KNOW WHEN I'M LIVING FOR CHRIST---
MY LIFE IS DIFFERENT!
AND WHEN I'M NOT---
IT'S AWFULLY BAD!
I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY THAT'S MY GAME PLAN!
---TO LIVE MY LIFE FOR CHRIST IN EVERY WAY I CAN!
30

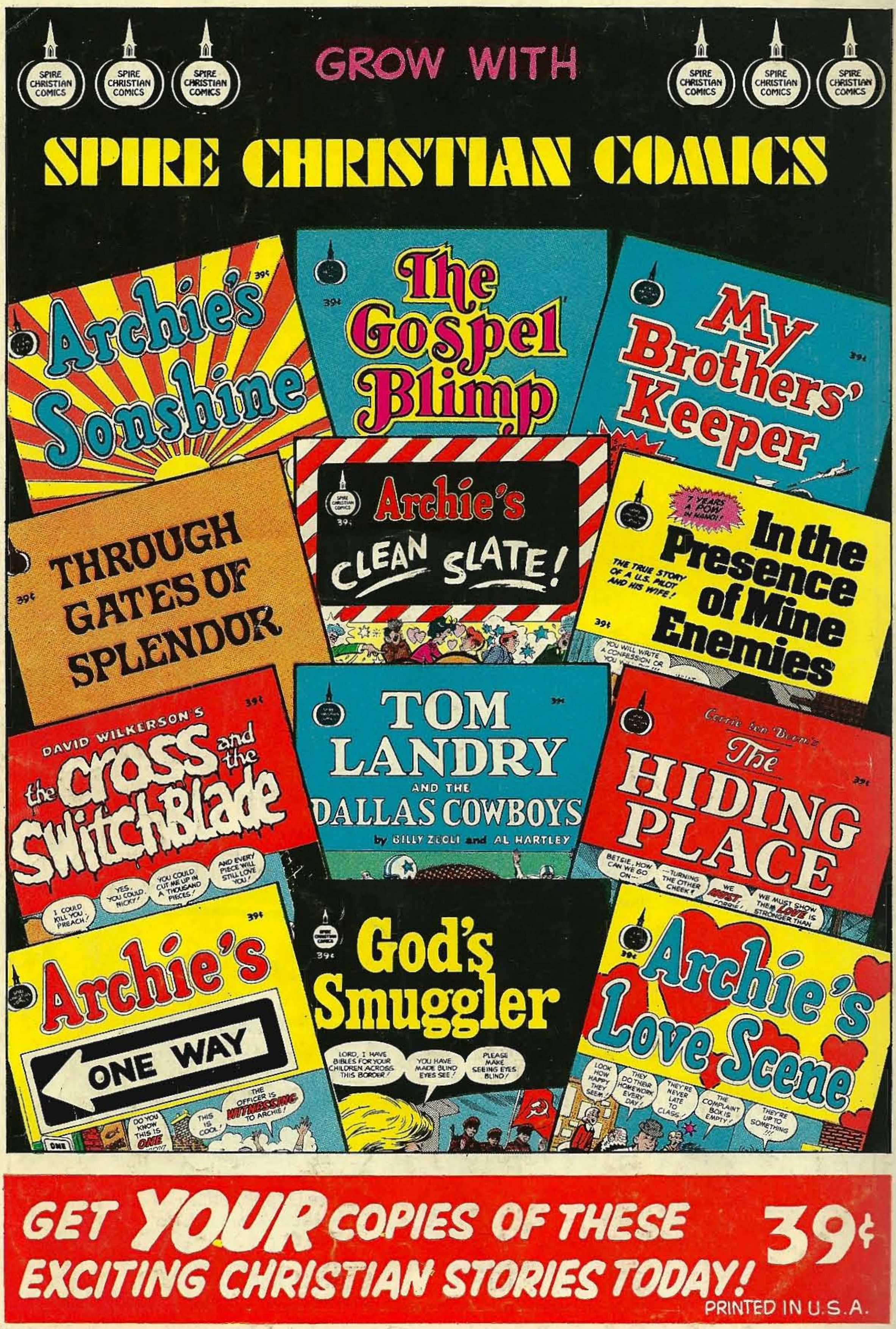

THAT'S WHY I WAS PROUD TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BILLY GRAHAM CRUSADE IN DALLAS!
JESUS SAI
AND WHY I WORK WITH SO MANY FINE AMERICANS IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES!
CARROLL DALE GREEN BAY PACKERS
BOB VOGEL BALTIMORE COLTS
NORM EVANS MIAMI DOLPHINS
PAUL CRANE N.Y. JETS
JIM HOUSTON CLEV. BROWNS
LEM BARNEY DETROIT LIONS
ROGER STAUBACH DALLAS COWBOYS
CHARLEY HARRAWAY WASH. REDSKINS
JIM FILES N.Y. GIANTS
THE SUPER BOWL TROPHY IS A GREAT AWARD---
BUT CHRIST HAS GIVEN ME SOMETHING FAR GREATER---
AND THAT'S WHAT LIFE IS REALLY ALL ABOUT!
31

# GOD'S GAME PLAN

## LAID OUT IN HIS RULE BOOK FOR LIFE ... THE BIBLE

FROM THE BLACKBOARD OF THE DALLAS COWBOYS' CHAPEL SERVICE




GROW WITH
SPIRE CHRISTIAN COMICS
Archie's Sonshine
The Gospel Blimp
My Brothers' Keeper
THROUGH GATES OF SPLENDOR
Archie's CLEAN SLATE!
In the Presence of Mine Enemies
THE TRUE STORY OF A U.S. PILOT AND HIS WIFE!
DAVID WILKERSON'S
the Cross and the SwitchBlade
TOM LANDRY AND THE DALLAS COWBOYS
by BILLY ZEOLI and AL HARTLEY
Corrie ten Boom's The HIDING PLACE
Archie's ONE WAY
God's Smuggler
LORD, I HAVE BIBLES FOR YOUR CHILDREN ACROSS THIS BORDER!
YOU HAVE MADE BLIND EYES SEE!
PLEASE MAKE SEEING EYES BLIND!
Archie's Love Scene
GET YOUR COPIES OF THESE EXCITING CHRISTIAN STORIES TODAY!
39¢
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